

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-9 and 17-20 have been allowed.

Claims 11 and 15 stand objected to and have been rewritten as independent claims, to include the limitations of claim 10 from which each of the two claims depend.

Claims 10, 12, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,213,289 to Hay. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections and request reconsideration of the claims, as amended. Claim 10 has been cancelled to expedite prosecution. Claim 16 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 11 the allowability of which is addressed below.

With respect to claim 12, the Office Action notes that the scraper of Hay is mounted in the recess shown in figure 5. Figure 5 of Hay does not show the scraper mounted on housing wall 190, and describes housing wall 190 as secured to walls 146 and 147 by "suitable means including, but not limited to, threaded connectors, rivets, welds, or the like." See Hay at col. 9, lines 38-40. The access panels or doors 207 shown in figure 5 are a part of a front wall 202 which allows access to the "housing interior, for example for, servicing, inspection, dust removal, or the like." See Hay at col. 9, lines 7-11. There is no mention in the specification or illustration in figure 5 or suggestion in either, that the materials scraper is "*mounted in the recess*," as recited in Applicants' claim 12. Still further, Applicants' claim 12 recites that the "*recess [is] in the inner wall*." The Office Action identifies housing wall 190 of Hay, as the "inner wall extending from the inlet to the outlet." There is no mention, illustration or suggestion of a recess in housing wall 190 of Hay, let alone a recess for a materials scraper.

With respect to claim 13, the Office Action references a plurality of scraping tips 201 in Hay. Hay shows abutment sections 201 in figure 5 and notes that "each abutment section 201 fits within the space between a pair of disks associated with a corresponding transport channel 131-135. See Hay at col. 9, lines 1-3. There is no mention, illustration or suggestion of Applicants' bulk material pump feeder with the materials scraper:

- (b) extending into the drive rotor between *each of the drive disks*, and
- (c) having a *plurality of flexible scraping tips between each of the drive disks*, preventing material handled by the bulk materials pump feeder from either flowing backward to a discharge point proximate the outlet of the housing or jamming between the drive disks and the materials scraper;

The abutment sections 201 of Hay have a single tip, as opposed to the multiple tips between each of the drive disks, as recited in Applicants' amended claim 13.

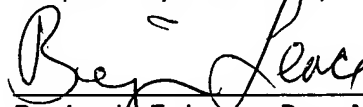
With respect to claim 14, the Office Action simply states that "the materials scraper also has a continuous scraping surface," apparently referencing the abutment section 201 of Hay. Applicants' amended claim 14 recites Applicants' bulk material pump feeder where:

(d) the materials scraper also has a *continuous scraping surface substantially mirroring the shape of the drive rotor between the drive disks*;

The abutment section of Hay is described as directing "the moving mass of particulate materials in the associated transport channel, out of the apparatus. See Hay at col. 9, lines 4-6. In addition, figure 5 of Hay shows the abutment sections 201 as substantially planar and not *substantially mirroring the shape of the drive rotor between the drive disks*, as recited in Applicants' claim 14.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks above Applicants contend that the application is in condition for allowance and requests early notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



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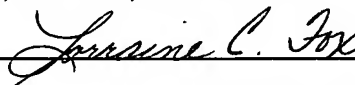
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